



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER ALLOWING FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR THE
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL**

COVID-19 Order No. 14

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise exponentially in the Commonwealth. As of March 22, 2020, the Department of Public Health had reported 646 cases of COVID-19, including 5 deaths, with 13 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to limit activities outside of the home and to practice social distancing at all times, both inside and outside of the home to limit the spread of this highly contagious and potentially deadly virus;

WHEREAS Article I of Chapter II, Section III of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allows for the Governor to call together and assemble the Council for the ordering and directing the affairs of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but

not limited to authority over public assemblages in order to protect the health and safety of persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

In order to be able to effectuate the important business of the Governor's Council during the State of Emergency relating to COVID-19, Councillors are permitted to take part in assembly remotely. Quorum may still be reached, as long as Councillors are telephonically present at assembly.

The Governor's Council shall ensure public access to the deliberations of the Governor's Council for interested members of the public through the adequate, alternative means set forth in this Order. Assemblies will be recorded and audio transcripts of the proceedings will be made available to the public through the Office of the Governor's Council, including through posting on webpages, on the same day the assembly occurs.

This Order shall take effect March 25, 2020 and shall remain in effect through April 29, 2020 unless further extended, or rescinded.

Given in Boston at 4:55 PM this 23rd day
of March, two thousand and twenty

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker", written over a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

Commonwealth of Massachusetts